

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated October 3, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 3, 2007. Applicants submit this response to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 15-18, 21, 22 and 24-30 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 15-18, 21, 22 and 24-30 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 12-13, 15-18 and 29 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Interview Summary

On November 9, 2007, a telephonic interview was held between Gero G. McClellan, attorney of record, and Examiner William L. Bashore. The parties discussed proposed amendment to claim 12 which would overcome the present rejections. The proposed amendments are reflected in this response.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

The office action states that the claimed invention (as claimed in claims 12-13, 15-18, and 29) is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 12-13, 15-18 and 29 have been amended to recite a “computer readable storage medium.” Applicants submit that a computer readable storage medium containing a program is directed to patentable subject matter. As agreed in the Examiner’s Interview, the claims as amended are directed to statutory subject matter. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 4, 6-9, 21, 22, -24-28 and 30 are allowed.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Gero McClellan, attorney of record, at (336) 643-3065, to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/

Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants